

all matters relating to the development of Medicinal Plants.

Expenditure on Rural Health

1469. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the per capita amount spent on medicines in rural areas of the country with the World Bank and WHO assistance;

(b) whether there is any new proposal to increase the said limit; and

(c) the total expenditure incurred on medicines in rural areas during the last five years and till-date, State-wise/year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE [DR. (SHRIMATI) RITA VERMA]: (a) and (b) The Government does not maintain separate statistics on per capita amount spent on medicines in rural areas of the country with the World Bank and WHO assistance.

(c) The expenditure on medicines in rural areas is met out of funds provided to the States under Minimum Needs Programmes (MNP) Basic Minimum Services (BMS) Programme. State-wise list of MNP/ BMS funds allocated is annexed. [(See Appendix 180, Annexure No. 22)]

Apart from this the Central Government also provides assistance of Rs. 2000 per Sub-centres for medicines to 97757 Sub-centres, per annum. The assistance for medicines is also provided under various National Programmes and Reproductive & Child Health Programme to all the States. But, separate allocation for rural areas is not made.

Vaccination for Hepatitis-B

1470. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the newsitem "Hepatitis-B still off the vaccination list", appearing in the Statesman dated 23rd June, 2000;

(b) if so, the reaction thereto;

(c) whether it is proposed to include HBV to the routine

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immunisation programme as has been done in about 100 countries, in response to a call from the World Health Organisation; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE [DR. (SHRIMATI) RITA VERMA]: (a) to (d) Yes Sir, Government's attention has been drawn to the news item "Hepatitis-B still of the vaccination list", published in the Statesman of 23rd July, 2000. Resource constraint and the need for improving the routine vaccination programme already under implementation, have been the main reasons for not taking up Hepatitis-B vaccination as a part of the nationwide Universal Immunization Programme. The Ministry of Health & Family Welfare at present is examining a proposal for a Pilot Project for introduction of Hepatitis-B vaccination in selected districts and cities.

Posts of Homoeopathic Pharmacists in CGHS Dispensary, R.K. Puram

† 1471. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any initiative has been taken to fill up the vacant posts of Homoeopathic pharmacists reserved for OBC candidates in C.G.H.S. Homoeopathic Dispensary at Sector-12, R.K. Puram, New Delhi-110022;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reasons for delay caused so far in this regard;

(d) whether applications have been invited and demands sent to Employment Exchange for this purpose; if so, the details thereof; and

(e) by when Government purpose to fill up these vacancies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE [DR. (SHRIMATI) RITA VERMA]: (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (e) The vacancies of Homoeopathic Pharmacists are filled up on the basis of common sanctioned strength and not on the basis of

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.